

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 IO-11 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EA-07 /092 W

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R 021452Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2632

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 1649

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: CENTO

SUBJECT: CENTO POLITICAL WORKING GROUP MEETING REACHES IMPASSE

REF: DEC. 75 ANKARA 9199

1. CENTO POLITICAL WORKING GROUP (PWG) MET MARCH 1 AND DEADLOCKED OVER WHICH REVISED VERSION OF "DRAFT POLITICAL GUIDANCE FOR MILITARY PLANNING" COULD BE CONSIDERED BY THE GROUP.

2. AS THE MEETING BEGAN, THE IRANIAN DELEGATE STATED THAT HE WAS AUTHORIZED TO CONTINUE DISCUSSION IN THE PWG ONLY ON THE BASIS OF REVISION TWO WHICH WAS, IN HIS GOVERNMENT'S VIEW, THE ONLY REVISION THE TWG HAD BEEN AUTHORIZED TO CONSIDER. HE SAID THAT IF THE PWG WISHED TO DEVELOP ANOTHER REVISION, IRAN WOULD BE WILLING TO PARTICIPATE BUT ONLY IF A NEW SITUATION PAPER WERE DRAFTED FIRST. ATTEMPTS BY THE OTHER DELEGATIONS AND THE CHAIR TO MOVE HIM AND TO DETERMINE EXACTLY WHAT IN REVISION THREE WAS UNACCEPTABLE TO IRAN PROVED UNSUCCESSFUL.

3. NEXT, THE TURKISH DELEGATE SAID THAT FOR THE GOT (WHICH
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STARTING IN 1974 HAD INSISTED ON THE COMMITTEE REFERRALS

THAT LED TO REVISION THREE), IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE TO RETURN TO REVISION TWO. THE BEST COMPROMISE HE COULD OFFER WAS TO DISCUSS BOTH REVISIONS TWO AND THREE TOGETHER, COMPARING ONE AGAINST THE OTHER. HOWEVER, THE IRANIAN DELEGATE SAID THAT THIS COMPROMISE WAS NOT SATISFACTORY AND THAT UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES COULD HE DISCUSS REVISION THREE.

4. MEETING ADJOURNED WITH AGREEMENT THAT AS SOON AS THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING WERE DRAFTED ANOTHER MEETING WOULD BE HELD TO APPROVE THEM SO THAT THE IMPASSE WHICH HAS DEVELOPED COULD BE PRESENTED TO THE COUNCIL OF DEPUTIES FOR POSSIBLE RESOLUTION. THE CHAIRMAN (DEP. SEC GEN AZIZ KHAN) ACCEPTED OUR SUGGESTION THAT HE USE HIS GOOD OFFICES IN THE MEANTIME TO SEEK A COMPROMISE.

5. COMMENT: IT APPEARS THAT THE IRANIANS HAVE CHOSEN TO STYMIE THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE POLITICAL GUIDANCE PAPER, BUT THE REASON IS NOT YET CLEAR. IN A PRIVATE CONVERSATION WITH EMBASSY OFFICER AFTER THE MEETING, THE IRANIAN DELEGATE COMPLAINED THAT "THE TURKS INSIST ON HAVING EVERYTHING THEIR WAY." HE APPARENTLY WAS REFERRING DIRECTLY TO THE TURKISH INTRANSIGENCE ON PROCEDURE WHICH RESULTED IN REVISION THREE. BUT HE MAY ALSO HAVE BEEN EXPRESSING IRANIAN RESENTMENT OF TURKEY'S RECENT ABRUPT INCREASE IN ROAD TRANSIT TOLLS, AN ACTION WE UNDERSTAND INCENSED THE SHAH PERSONALLY.
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